

pleasure to see them poring over their  
guide-books and  
reading them aloud to each other.

WELCOMBE, STRATFORD-ON-  
AVON,  
January 8,  
1906.

On our return from Italy I found the books  
you had been  
good enough to send me; and primarily the  
"American  
Hunter," copy No. 3, which in itself is an  
honor. That  
honor is greatly enhanced by the inscription  
which you  
have written. The portrait is a great  
acquisition. It could  
not be improved; and, if for no other reason, the  
book would  
be to me a valued possession. But I like it  
extremely, and  
have enjoyed every word of it. The hunting  
books I care  
for I have always cared for much; but they are  
very few,  
and this is among the very best. The whole  
about the  
cougars is as good as it possibly can be.; and  
there is a  
melancholy romance about the Yellowstone Park  
which produced a great impression on me. I never miss  
spending  
five minutes, when I visit our Zoological  
Gardens, in front  
of the Bisons. What a sequence of ideas the  
sight of those  
animals presents! But I think your bears  
round the refuse  
in the hotels are almost a more significant  
testimony to the  
irresistible, unideal, triumph of civilization.  
However,  
romance has lasted my time; and the last six  
weeks have  
proved to me that Rome at any rate is  
romantic as ever.  
To have produced Rome is, and I suppose  
always will re-  
main, the most remarkable feat accomplished  
by mankind.

It is a place where no one can feel old, and no one unhappy.

Have you got 'Sponge's Sporting Tour'? Many years ago I had a bad Typhoid fever; and, as then was the custom, it was concealed from me what was the matter with me. But I gradually lost all interest in books, and in most other human things; when suddenly there came on me a craving to read 'Sponge,' which I had read a dozen times, and have read several times since; and I even then read it with delight. I never understand how 'Jorrocks' can be placed on a level with it. Macaulay—whose knowledge of a horse was confined to a pretty clear recognition of the